THE FOUNTAIN

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And

BLINDING WHITE

Burn the words...

"Therefore, the Lord God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden and placed a flaming sword to protect the tree of life."

-- GENESIS 3:24

The words become the

NIGHT SKY

Our beginning. The whole universe above. Life eternal. And there, in the middle of it all, a gold star. Brighter and larger than the rest. It flickers violently, hinting at distant chaos.

FROM THE GROUND

Crickets scream their mating calls. A thunderous noise.

Until the insects go silent. Eerie...

Beat.

A muddy foot in a worn sandal smashes down.

REVEAL FATHER AVILA a Franciscan priest, his chest heaving, searching for breath. He's covered with dirt, scratches and cuts. He wears a torn, sweaty, brown robe and

<u>The year is 1535</u> and

The priest stands somewhere in a slight clearing of a

CENTRAL AMERICAN SWAMP -- NEW SPAIN

His possessed and feverish eyes scan the blackness around him. He looks up at the sky.

FATHER AVILA
Please. Please! Show mercy--

A twig cracks, footsteps. Avila holds his breath.

Terrified silence.

A deep voice rises from the dark woods.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
Have no fear, father.

Avila is relieved. He breathes again.

Enter CAPTAIN TOMAS CREO, a beast of a man. He pulls his cracked helmet from his head and drops it in the mud. His face is lined, weathered, weary. A meaty scar zigzags through his natty beard.

FATHER AVILA
Captain.

A rag tag Spanish army pushes itself into the clearing behind Tomas. The handful of men are in disarray. Half of the men are being carried or supported by those still standing.

Soldiers pull arrows out of their cotton armor. The horses are limping. The injured cry out for help.

Tomas steps next to the priest.

TOMAS
Tell me we are no longer lost. You know where it is.

Father Avila lowers his head in defeat. He does not know which way to go.

A temporary setback for Tomas. The conquistador scans the darkness. He spots a rise in the clearing.

He turns to his second in command, a hulking half-crazed Moor.

TOMAS
(points)
The rise. Form ranks.

But CAPTAIN ARIEL does not respond. He looks down at his huge bloody hands.

TOMAS
What are you doing?

A handful of soldiers step up behind Ariel. They back the bulky Moor's mutiny. None of the men have the courage to look at Tomas.

ARIEL
We think we should return to the ships.

TOMAS
Retreat? Never.

ARIEL
I'm sorry -

Ariel eases his blade from its scabbard.

TOMAS
Fools.

Every soldier watches the action. The priest tries to intervene.

FATHER AVILA
No, no, stop this.

Tomas acts. In a flash, a dagger is in his hand.

In a second flash, Tomas drives the blade into Ariel's throat.

The fight is over before it began.

Ariel lands on his back, dead.

TOMAS
Coward.

Tomas looks at the other mutinous soldiers. He pulls his sword.

TOMAS
The choice is yours. Die now, or - by my side - fight for life.

They nod to him. Tomas puts his blade away.

TOMAS
Captain Rivera!

A skinny, thin-lipped soldier steps up.

TOMAS
The rise.
(points)
Form ranks.

CAPTAIN RIVERA turns to the men.

RIVERA
Ranks!

TOMAS
Three sides.

RIVERA
Three SIDES!

The army groups in a triangular formation on top of the hill. Ten men on each side. The injured are placed in the middle with the horses for protection.

TOMAS
We shall face them here.

Tomas and Rivera take position on top of a boulder in the center of the rise. The army is terrified. Shaking.

RIVERA
Like phantoms. Gone.
Where did they go!?

TOMAS
They taunt us. Preparing
their feast.

Rivera barks commands to the men. He keeps them alert.

Tomas pulls something from his breast pocket.
It is a simple gold ring.

He brings it up to his face and inhales its scent.
His eyes close. His mind focuses on the smell.
The breath takes him for a moment back to the motherland...

SEVILLE SPAIN

It is three years earlier.

Tomas stands before a woman, ISABEL. She's young and beautiful, her skin so fair it almost glows.

The sun is rising. Golden light floods the heavens.

He can't look at her.

From the necklace around her neck she removes the gold ring. Gently, she places it into his calloused palm.

Only his heartbeat for a moment. He holds back a tear.

Now, back in the

SWAMP

Tomas puts the ring away. A fresh breath of courage floods his lungs.

Father Avila is slumped against the boulder, holding his face in defeat.

TOMAS
Priest, point us in a direction or die alongside these noble Christian souls. The heathens are upon us with a desperate thirst for blood.

The priest rises to his feet, nodding...

FATHER AVILA
Yes. Yes. We must -

Tomas silences him by holding up his hand.

The forest is silent. Completely still.

Beat.

Tomas spots a single leaf move.
It is enough to cue the great warrior.

TOMAS
Shields!

The Spanish kneel and raise their shields, forming a giant umbrella.

Just then, the arrows pour in.
The downpour is as thick as locusts. A thunderous rain.

From beneath the canopy, Tomas howls encouragement.

TOMAS
Hold! Everyone hold!

Captain Rivera slips off the rock.
Moss is knocked free. Something is under the moss.

A carving.

Father Avila strips the moss off the rock, revealing a design.

His eyes light up. He scans the swamp looking for the final piece in the puzzle.

The arrows keep coming. A few slip through the defenses. One soldier catches a stone arrowhead in his neck. Blood flings free as he falls back. Another catches one in the chest. A third in his open mouth.

But then, the arrows stop.

Silence, except for the injured soldiers' moans.

TOMAS
Hold ranks!

RIVERA
Everyone hold!

FATHER AVILA
Captain. Look! We are here.

Tomas peels his eyes away to look at the ceremonial stone beneath his feet.

There is a triangular glyph carved onto the rock.

FATHER AVILA
Shibalba.

Father Avila pulls out an ancient Mayan obsidian dagger. There is a triangular glyph carved onto the blade. It is the same design as on the stone and in the sky.

The priest gives the blade to the warrior. Tomas raises the blade to the heavens.

The glyph on the blade lines up perfectly with the triangular constellation surrounding the gold star.

The shape formed by the stars, on the carved rock and on the Mayan blade are all one and the same.

A sparkle of possibility twinkles in Tomas' eyes.

TOMAS
Then our fate is revealed.
Glory is our destiny!

RIVERA
Men, victory is in our grasp!
A sign!

Rivera points at the stone. For a moment, the Spaniards' fear relieved.

Tomas scans the swamp. He peers deep into the darkness.

TOMAS
And where is this pyramid?

FATHER AVILA
Here. Close.

TOMAS
Which direction -

BOOM!

Suddenly, there is the sound of a great drum. It is a noise so evil it raises the hairs on the back of Tomas' neck.

TOMAS
First we fight. Then their treasure will be ours.

BOOM!

The Spaniards start to get scared. The horses get restless.

BOOM!

Again.

Tomas slides the Mayan dagger into his belt. He hands Father Avila a real blade.

TOMAS
Even a priest shall kill today.

Tomas pulls out his rapier.

BOOM!

And the invisible army cries out. It's a shrill and painful noise. Now, more drums. All different types. Noises everywhere.

The Spanish are panicking. Tomas screams above them.

TOMAS
We ride with Spain's banner.
It bears her majesty's blessing.
And through it we shall live
forever. VICTORY OR DEATH!!!

His men respond with three cries of their own.

They are answered with silence. Complete silence.

Beat.

TOMAS
Crossbows.

And then, the great Mayan army bursts into the clearing. Brandishing weapons, war paint, feathered plumes, sinister masks. Screaming with passion and fury. They are an overwhelming, terrifying sight. It is an ocean of men and they aren't taking any prisoners.

Tomas' men look out in horror. This is the end.
Tomas doesn't even blink. It's not his time.
Not yet...

He yells over the noise and the fear, with absolute conviction.

TOMAS
The Lord Christ and at them!

The Spaniards fire their loaded crossbows. The front row of Mayans tumble into the ground. But the enemy army keeps coming. They trample their own men.

In a blink of an eye they pour themselves onto the Spanish.

Tomas slides out a second blade.

He attacks. Tomas stabs and lunges.
But the enemy is everywhere.

The ranks break.

It's chaos.

RIVERA
Fall back!

The Spanish fall back into the nearby

FOREST

But the trees do little to protect them.
The soldiers are falling quickly.

Father Avila stabs a bloody Mayan. But it doesn't do much.
Countless hands grab the priest.

They pull on him until he literally splits apart.
The priest dies with the Lord's name upon his lips.

Rivera slices and dices. But, he too is soon overwhelmed.
A dagger is shoved into his back. He gurgles on his own blood as he dies.

Tomas continues to fall back.
He never stops fighting. His sword swings, killing scores.
He refuses to surrender.

He is the lone Spaniard living. His army is decimated.
But still, he keeps attacking.

TOMAS
I shall not die. Not here.
Not now. NEVER!

The Mayan army surges at him.

He trips, loses his footing. Stumbles backwards.

Momentum carries him. Falling.

Still fighting. Swinging his sword. Screaming!

He lands on his back. His head hits.

THUD!

SMASH TO:

CLOSE ON TOM CREO

Eyes pop open. Waking with a start. Fear still grips him.
He's the same man as Tomas. His face just as weary.

But now the beard is gone. And so is the scar.
His hair is a thin silver crew cut and his eyebrows are gray.

Tom takes a deep breath. Calming himself down. He is alive.

It was all just a dream. That same bad dream.

He's in a

BLACK SPACE

Silence.

Tom's floating in the lotus position amongst the branches of an

ANCIENT TREE

Old and big as time. Its giant roots crisscrossing, forming
a nest around the bottom curve of the interior of a

SPACE SHIP

A perfect sphere. Shooting through space.

He's a man in a bubble and

The year is 2150 and

He looks up out the front of the ship.

TOM
(whispers to himself)
We're almost there.

CUT TO:

DEEP SPACE

Smothered with stars. They sparkle forever in the ink black infinity.

One grows in size. Approaching.

In fact, it is not a star. It is the spherical ship heading right toward us.

WHOOOOOOSH!

The bubble whips by. Faster than anything we've ever seen.

Quickly it disappears, racing toward a towering nebula.

The nebula is a great glowing cloud made of trillions upon trillions of molecules. It shimmers like a gold silk sheet catching a light summer breeze.

It almost looks like heaven.

RETURN TO:

THE SHIP

Tom tilts backwards.

He floats down to the ground. Gravity weighs on him again.

His knees buckle as he staggers to the tree.

The tree.

It seems to quiver as he nears.

He runs his eyes across the scarred and barren surface.

The tree is dying. If not dead already.

Only a small worn crevice in the trunk seems to still be alive.

Tom drops to his knees. He reaches out to the healthy bark.

Tiny hairs on the bark reach out towards him. Static electricity.

Right before he touches it he stops.

He senses something, someone.

A WOMAN is watching him.
He doesn't look at her and we don't see her face.

He ignores her. He turns his back on her.

He places an affectionate hand on the tree.

Tom leans close to the healthy bark. His lips almost kiss the golden hairs.

TOM
(whispers)
Don't worry. We will be all right.
We're close. Very close.

He pats the tree gently. He moves to a pond of water.
He rinses his face, waking up.

That woman is still looking at him. He tries to ignore her.

But her unseen eyes feel as if they're burrowing into his skull. He can't take it anymore. He looks over.

She is breathtaking. Her name is IZZI and she looks just like Isabel except she's wearing a winter jacket and jeans.

TOM
(angry)
What!?

She doesn't answer. She just smiles.

Tom knows what he's supposed to say, but he can't seem to say it.

He takes a breath. He subdues his anger. He looks back up at Izzi, but this time he is surprised to see her.

TOM
What are you doing here?

Her voice is cheerful and filled with life.

IZZI
Come on, let's take a walk.

And now, it is the year 2004 and Tom is sitting in

A 20TH CENTURY OFFICE

TOM
(playing a part)
I have too much work.

IZZI
It's the first snow. We always--

And now Tom is gone. Instead, sitting behind a desk in front of a computer is TOMMY. He is a present day version of Tom and Tomas, in a button down shirt and slacks.

TOMMY
I can't, I have so much to do.

IZZI
Come on Tommy.

TOMMY
(a bit too loud)
PLEASE, Izzi!

Izzi lowers her chin.

TOMMY
I'm sorry. I am.

Izzi nods as she leaves.
The memory fades away and we return to the

GARDEN

Tommy is gone as well. Tom, with silver hair, stares into black space. Even though Izzi is gone he says:

TOM
I'll see you tonight. OK?

But no one is there to answer. His eyes well up with tears.

He looks down at his hands.

Beat.

FADE TO:

THE GARDEN - LATER

Tom picks different herbs and fungi from the ailing plants surrounding the tree. Some things, he eats. Other stuff he stores in small piles.

FADE TO:

BOW OF SHIP - LATER

Tom concentrates as his body moves through an ancient Tai Chi series. His movements graceful and poised.

The sphere pushes into the great nebula like a plane entering a cloud bank.

Everything disappears into a glow of golden light.

FADE TO:

GARDEN - LATER

Tom sits near the tree -- alone.

His right sleeve is gone. His right arm revealed...

It is covered with tattoos. Wrapped like bracelets. Each ring unique. Some thick, some thin. Elaborate designs, elegant lines.

With the stone flint, he works on a new ring on his right shoulder.

But something distracts him. He looks over.

In the garden is a hospital bed. On the bed lies Izzi.

She is not well.

Tom looks away. He tries to focus on the tattoo.

But he can't help himself. He gets up and walks over to Izzi.

As he arrives at her bedside he returns to 2004 as Tommy.

IZZI'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Tommy eases himself down onto the bed next to her. She is holding a leather bound manuscript.

IZZI
I want you to help me.

TOMMY
How?

IZZI
Finish it.

Tommy doesn't understand.

IZZI
Finish it.

TOMMY
I don't know how it ends.

IZZI
You do. You will.

Anger builds inside Tommy.

He stands up, crushing the memory.

Returning to 2150 as Tom, in the

GARDEN

He screams.

TOM
No!

But no one is there to hear him.

He is once again -- alone.

TOM
(quietly now)
No. I can't. Not again.

He raises his shirt. Beneath his heart is a freshly healed wound. He touches it tenderly.

Tom crouches down. Deep in thought. Holding his brow.

He starts to tattoo his shoulder again.

But once again, he senses something. He senses someone.

Izzi is watching him. But not from the bed. She's standing, smiling at him. She's wearing the winter jacket and jeans.

TOM
Please. Leave me alone.
You're killing us. Why?

But she just smiles. Waiting. Waiting for the memory to start.

He follows the tattoos down his right arm.

Each tattoo is a year of his life. Each year a different memory. Each ring fading away like the pigment in his skin.

He pulls up his left sleeve...

Tattoos cover this arm too. They are lighter than the right arm's rings. Older.

He follows them down to the first tattoo. This initial tattoo is crudely drawn around the ring finger in the same place a wedding band would be worn.

A memory slips through his mind.
He decides to give in to Izzi.
He will play his part.

TOM
All right. I trust you.
Take me. Show me.

He takes a deep breath, surrendering.
He looks up at Izzi, but this time he is surprised.

TOM
What are you doing here?

Izzi answers.

IZZI
Come on, let's take a walk.

The memory returns him to 2004 in his

OFFICE

Once again, Tommy sits behind his desk.

Izzi wipes some melting snow flakes off her jacket.

TOM
I have too much work.

IZZI
It's the <u>first</u> snow. We always--

TOMMY
I can't, I have so much to do.

IZZI
Come on Tommy.

TOMMY
PLEASE, Izzi!

Izzi lowers her chin as she leaves.

TOMMY
I'll see you tonight. OK?

She doesn't answer.

Tommy sits alone with his work-covered desk.

Finally, even he can't stand himself.
He gets up and chases after her.

In the

HALLWAY - SILVER-HANDEL LABORATORIES

He bumps into MANNY, a stubble headed geek, out of breath.

MANNY
Antonio's on his way back.

Tommy watches Izzi head out the door at the end of the hallway.

MANNY
Donovan's still prepped and ready.

He can choose his wife or his work.

Beat.

TOMMY
Damn it.

He makes a decision. Work.
A new determination floods his soul.
He turns away from his wife and races up the hallway.
Manny follows.

TOMMY
Does Henry have new scans?

Tommy pushes through swinging doors into the

SCRUB ROOM

HENRY, a lab technician from Taiwan, is ready for him.

He holds up the scans in front of an x-ray light.

HENRY
- The growth continues to expand.

Tommy removes his wedding ring and places it above the soap dish while he scrubs.

Henry helps Tommy into his gown and gloves.

TOMMY
(screams)
Where's Antonio?

Tommy in full surgical gear rushes into the

OPERATING ROOM

which is filled with cutting edge medical gadgets.

BETTY, a career lab technician in scrubs, monitors the vital statistics.

BETTY
He's been ready for fifty minutes now.

Tommy nods, any exhaustion long gone. He's God in this room. Manny bursts in.

MANNY
He's crossing the street.

TOMMY
(to Manny)
What were the in-vitro results?

BETTY
(to Tommy; surprised)
- You don't know?

MANNY
(ignores Betty; answers Tommy)
I didn't ask.

TOMMY
Meet him at the elevator and get his ass in here.

Manny hurries out of the room.

Tommy looks down at his patient.

TOMMY
How we doing, Donovan? - You hanging in?

Beat.

ANTONIO, a muscular but soft spoken post-doc chemist, enters. Tommy looks at him expectantly.

Beat.

ANTONIO
(shakes his head; calm)
No good. Great specificity. But no suppression.

Tommy's face falls with disappointment.

Beat. Beat.

BETTY
(softly)
- Should we close him?

HENRY
We'll have to euthanize.

BETTY
Why?

Tommy shakes his head to himself. No. No. No. No.

HENRY
If we don't treat him now we won't have another chance before the growth gets him.

Tommy just pushes past them back into the

SCRUB ROOM

Starts pacing back and forth. Getting angrier and angrier. He will not be stopped. He will not fail.

He will not.

His whole team watches him. Tommy avoids their eyes, crouches in a corner.

There's a nasty winter storm blowing down on the skylight. The wind causes the glass panes to rattle.

Tommy lets out a frustrated sigh.

The other scientists glance nervously at each other. They've never seen him without an answer.

Beat.

He looks up through the water-streaked skylight. Snow collides with the rattling glass panes.

The sounds around him begin to fade and disappear.

A spark of golden light shoots off the skylight. Tommy doesn't know what it was.

In a moment, it is completely silent. Now, there's another spark. And another. The glass starts to light up with golden rays of light.

And for a moment Tommy is Tom sitting in the

GARDEN

His eyes filled with wonder.

Miniscule particles from the nebula collide with the front of the ship causing giant burning sparks of golden light.

Outside in

SPACE

The bubble soars through the nebula. Shards of light dance magically across the surface of the ship.

Back in the

SCRUB ROOM

Inspiration explodes in Tommy's eyes.

A smile slowly spreads across the scientist's face. The smile of discovery.

BETTY
I'll prepare the pentobarbital.

TOMMY
No, wait.

Manny grins; he knows Tommy's got something.

Tommy looks down from the skylight at his team.

TOMMY
Remember that ethnobotanical compound we played around with last year?

ANTONIO
Which one?

JUMP TO:

LAB - A SECOND LATER

Tommy frantically flips open a botany reference book. Surging with energy, and discovery. Manny peeks over his shoulder.

TOMMY
(pointing)
From that tree. That one.

MANNY
(reads)
Natul Tortuosa. From Guatemala.

Antonio is on a PC searching through files.

ANTONIO
(remembers)
Yes, yes. The old growth tree. We had a couple of samples. It was sterile. Grafting and clippings didn't take either.

TOMMY
(nods his head)
That's it.

Betty sticks her head in from the O.R.

BETTY
What's happening?

TOMMY
(to Antonio)
Mix it with your compound. They've got a similar tertiary structure. Almost a mirror.
(turns to Manny)
- Manny, find those samples.

Manny heads for the freezer.

ANTONIO
I don't see it.

TOMMY
(trying to explain)
Picture them side by side. Now fold them into each other. Like two lovers. Woman on top.

ANTONIO
(starts to see it; getting excited)
They have complementary domains - If we can get them to stick, we might,--

Tommy nods his head.

Manny rushes out of the freezer with a glass vial.

MANNY
- Is this it?

Tommy grabs the vial from Manny. Checks it out. And hands it to Antonio.

TOMMY
Go!

Antonio hustles over to the chemistry area of the lab.

Betty looks like she's about to have a heart attack.

BETTY
- Dr. Creo. We have no toxicity reports. There's not a single--

TOMMY
It doesn't matter. Donovan's on the table! If we do nothing he dies.

FADE TO:

TOMMY'S POV

Down the turret of a microscope at a white substance. Its architecture could be confused for neurons, the branches of a tree, or - as we will see - a dying star.

It breathes and vibrates with life.

We PULL OUT to Tommy in his

LAB

He takes his eye away from the microscope. Turns to Antonio.

ANTONIO
I've never seen that adhesion pattern.

TOMMY
What's it binding to?

ANTONIO
Don't know, but it's definitely attaching to the high growth regions.

CUT TO:

OPERATING ROOM - LATER

Antonio and Tommy stand over the patient wearing masks and lightly stained gowns. Betty operates the anesthesia.

TOMMY
- Give me 1.5 cc's.

Antonio sticks a needle into the open vial, that Manny holds, and carefully draws up some liquid.

He hands the syringe to Tommy who snaps it into a mechanical stereotaxic arm mounted in the surgical field.

Tommy starts to slowly turn a small metal wheel.

Then, he hits a button. Electronically it depresses the plunger on the syringe.

As the chemical enters the patient's brain, we MOVE OVER Tommy...

REVEAL. Donovan is an aging rhesus monkey.

Beat.

TOMMY
(compassionate)
That's a good boy, Donovan. That's a good boy -

CUT TO:

SCRUB ROOM - LATER

Tommy removes his gloves and reaches for his wedding ring. It's not there.

Tommy scans the floor. Panicking. Keeps looking around, can't find it.

It's gone.

He gets down on his knees...

Antonio and Manny enter.

ANTONIO
- What's up, captain?

TOMMY
My ring -

MANNY
What ring?

TOMMY
(panicked)
My wedding ring.

MANNY
- Where did you leave it?

TOMMY
Where I always put it. Up there -

Manny and Antonio get on their hands and knees and help Tommy look around for it.

Just then, DR. LILLIAN GUZETTI, the head of research, sticks her head inside the room. Sees them all searching on the ground.

LILLIAN
Dr. Creo?

TOMMY
(distracted)
- Yeah?

LILLIAN
May I have a word with you?

TOMMY
One second.

Beat.

LILLIAN
What are you doing?

TOMMY
My ring. I put it right there and,-

MANNY
It's gotta be here.

LILLIAN
I need to talk to you -

ANTONIO
Don't worry. We'll find it -

CUT TO:

TOMMY'S OFFICE - LATER

Tommy flips on some light boards and examines the latest scans. Lillian's standing behind him.

He lights a cigarette, avoiding her gaze at all costs.

Beat.

LILLIAN
You're not allowed to smoke in here.

He shrugs. Keeps on smoking.

Beat.

LILLIAN
- How's Izzi?

TOMMY
She's good. Writing.

LILLIAN
And you? You've really been pushing lately.

TOMMY
- yeah.

Beat.

Lillian's not sure how to say this.

LILLIAN
(uncomfortably)
You know, I wonder if you shouldn't ease out of brain disease - go back to aging.

Tommy turns. Stares down Lillian.

TOMMY
- What?

LILLIAN
Work could be a place to clear your head - get away for a while.

TOMMY
What are you trying to say? Get away from what?

LILLIAN
I'm concerned.

TOMMY
About?

LILLIAN
I saw Betty in the hall, hysterical. You've been running sloppy surgeries.

TOMMY
Nonsense.

LILLIAN
You injected that animal with an untested compound.

TOMMY
He was open for chrissakes. We were about to put him down -

LILLIAN
(stern)
It's a blatant violation of protocol. NIH could shut us down. I can shut you down for it. You're reckless and you need to slow down.
(beat; softens)
- Tommy, maybe you need to take a few days at home - Spend some time with Izzi.

Tommy looks away.

TOMMY
I'm here. For her.

Lillian wants to respond. Decides to let it go.

Beat.

LILLIAN
I can't have you violating protocol.

TOMMY
Okay. It won't happen again. I promise, Lilly.

Lillian studies him for awhile.

TOMMY
- Just let me keep my schedule.
(beat)
Please.

Beat.

CUT TO:

TOMMY & IZZI'S HOUSE

Tommy opens the front door. Pushes inside from the freezing cold.

He calls for his wife.

TOMMY
Izzi?

No response. Tries again.

TOMMY
Izzi?

Still nothing. Now, concerned. Fear creeping in...

Looks in the bedroom.

No one there.

TOMMY
(calls out)
Izzi -

Terror and panic spread throughout his entire body. He runs through the house, going from room to room.

Kitchen. Living room. Bathrooms.
Searching for his wife, fearing the worst...

TOMMY
IZZI!

No sign. Rushes past the bedroom. Tommy's eyes wild with fear.

He hears something. Doubles back into their bedroom.

TOMMY
Isabel?

IZZI (OS)
Out here -

Tommy goes to the window. Leans outside...

BOOM! Smack in the face with a snowball.

Izzi sits on the roof laughing her ass off.

Next to her is a telescope pointed towards the sky.

TOMMY
Funny. Very funny.

She thinks so. Izzi wears a simple button down shirt and jeans.

TOMMY
- What are you doing?

IZZI
(motions to telescope, mysterious)
I'm star gazing.

TOMMY
Come on in, it's freezing -

IZZI
(strong, laughs)
I want you to see something.

She points to the telescope. He hesitates.

IZZI
Stop being an old fart.

He climbs out onto the

ROOF

The sky is filled with stars. The air is freezing cold.

He eases next to her. She grabs his hand.

IZZI
Go on. Look -

He puts his eye on the eye piece.

TOMMY'S POV

Focusing in on the pulsing gold star. It's the same star Father Avila eyed at the start of the story, the same star Tom is heading for in the future. It's all one in the same.

TOMMY
The gold star?

IZZI
It's actually a nebula wrapped around a dying star. That's what makes it look gold.

Tommy pulls his eye away. He makes a show that he's impressed by her knowledge. She sees his expression.

IZZI
What?

Tommy shakes his head. He's got nothing to say.

IZZI
(joking, defensive)
I took science.

TOMMY
(oh yeah?)
When?

IZZI
(sheepish)
In junior high.

Tommy smiles as he hugs her.

She motions for him to look in the telescope again. He does.

IZZI
The Mayans called it Shibalba.

TOMMY
(pronouncing)
Shi-bal-ba?

IZZI
The Mayan word for their underworld. They believed it's the place dead souls go to be reborn.

Tommy pulls his eye away again. He's serious this time.

TOMMY
What are you talking about?

IZZI
The book. It's going to be in the book.

TOMMY
I thought it took place in Spain.

IZZI
(enigmatic)
It starts there.

TOMMY
You gonna tell me what it's about?

She smiles.

IZZI
Don't worry. It's almost done.

She looks into the telescope. Up at the star.

IZZI
Some day it will explode, die, and give birth to new stars. Death, rebirth, it's how they understood life.

He doesn't like the topic of conversation. He looks away and notices that she is barefoot.

TOMMY
(alarm)
Where are your shoes?

She looks down. For a moment she seems to be surprised. But then she covers it.

She shrugs as she squishes her toes in the slush as if it were mud.

He smiles and shakes his head at her.

TOMMY
Let's warm you up.

CUT TO:

SPACE

The year 2150. The bubble ship pushes through the nebula.

FADE TO INSIDE:

THE SHIP

Tom floats through the branches of the tree.

He massages water into the stem of a leaf.
It is one of the few leaves on the tree.

He blows gently onto the leaf.

Tom takes hold of a massive branch.
He feels it, massages it.

His hands caress the old, dying wood.

Tom's hands dissolve into Tommy's hands in 2004. The tree branches become Izzi's frail limbs.

FADE BACK TO:

BATHROOM - PRESENT DAY

Tommy washes Izzi's body with a sponge. She's naked in a large antique tub. Her hair is just growing in.

He's kneeling by her side, sleeves rolled up.

She's enjoying his attention. Then, she notices something.

Her devilish smile creeps across her face.

IZZI
Is she a redhead?

TOMMY
What?

She grabs his hand. Holds up his ring finger. No ring.

TOMMY
(shakes his head; smiles)
I left it in surgery.

She takes his ring finger puts it in her mouth, sucks on it.

IZZI
If you can't wait. You can't wait.

He pulls away, it's definitely not funny now.

IZZI
Joking.

TOMMY
I'll make some coffee.

He moves to get up. She stops him.

IZZI
Wait. The sponge...
Would you heat it?

Tommy looks back. Something is wrong. His eyes narrow.

The water in the bath is hot. Steam creeps over the lip of the tub.

He can tell she's trying to tell him something.

Tommy turns on the tap. He places the sponge under the hot water until his hand is red from the heat. He keeps it there for another moment.

He carefully touches the steaming sponge against her thigh. He looks into her face.

Tears gather in her eyes as she shakes her head no.

Beat.

TOMMY
(realizing)
Outside, before, you couldn't feel the cold.

Izzi nods. He gets up, heading for the phone. Izzi grabs him. Pulls him back to the tub.

IZZI
Tommy, wait.

TOMMY
I'm calling Dr. Lipper. I've got his beeper.

IZZI
Not now. Wait. I've got to tell you something.

It is near impossible for him to stay put. She sees this.

IZZI
Tommy, I'm afraid.

This breaks him. He goes to her.

TOMMY
I know, I'm sorry -

She grabs onto him. Keeping him put.

IZZI
It's been happening for a long time. I've been losing sensitivity, hot and cold -

TOMMY
Why didn't you -

IZZI
But, it doesn't matter. Not now. Inside ... it's different. Every breath. Each one.

Tommy just stares, not sure what to say.

TOMMY
- I don't -

IZZI
I don't want to be alone.

TOMMY
(trying to make her feel better)
Don't worry -

IZZI
I'm not -

TOMMY
- I'm here. I'll always be here. You're gonna be fine -

Her frustration mounts. Instead of crying she grabs for him.

She kisses him.

He kisses her back. But she's sick. He gets concerned. Pulls away.

But Izzi kisses him harder. Much harder.

He can't resist. The passion grows. He kisses her hard.

Mouths open. Surrendering.

And he slips into the bath. Fully clothed. He's soaked.

Beat.

She laughs. He laughs too. Nestled together in the tub.

Serious now, she kisses him lightly. He kisses her.

Slowly, they make love.

FADE TO:

WHITE

Beat.

CUT TO:

TOMMY AND IZZI'S BEDROOM - LATER

Tommy dries his body as he waits on the phone.

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
Yes. OK,-

Izzi, wrapped in a white robe, tries to hand him a leather bound manuscript.

IZZI
I want you to read this.

Tommy holds up a finger motioning for her to wait. Someone is talking to him on the phone.

DR. LIPPER (OS PHONE)
How's three?

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
Good. Thank you, doctor.

He hangs up and looks down at the manuscript.

TOMMY
We'll see him tomorrow after lunch.

On the cover it says "The Fountain." And it is written by Isabel Creo.

TOMMY
I didn't know you finished it.

IZZI
I haven't. But I want you to start it. Tell me what you think.

As he reaches for it the phone rings. RING!!!

She stares at him. Eyes lock. RING!!!

He breaks the stare and picks up the phone.

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
Hello?

ANTONIO (OS PHONE)
(excited)
Captain?

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
Antonio? What's wrong?

ANTONIO (OS PHONE)
Can you get down here?

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
What is it?

ANTONIO (OS PHONE)
Donovan. I've never seen anything like it.

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
Is he okay?

ANTONIO (OS PHONE)
Yeah. Fine. But...
You need to see this.

Izzi tosses the manuscript onto his pillow.

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
(stern)
Tell me what's happening.

ANTONIO (OS PHONE)
Please, can you come down, we need your eyes.

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
I can't right now. I can't.

Izzi knows what he's going to do. She heads downstairs.

CUT TO:

FREEWAY - NIGHT

Two points of light emerge from the darkness. Rushing forward. Only car on the road.

Tommy's car whips by fast. Heading towards a city.

Modern skyscrapers reaching high, glowing gold in the winter cold. Speeding towards civilization.

His taillights disappear...

CUT TO:

TOMMY'S LAB - HANDEL-SILVER - NIGHT

Tommy walks in. He's greeted at the door by Manny, Betty, Henry, and Antonio. They can hardly contain themselves. The four planets to his sun.

TOMMY
- What's going on?

ANTONIO
Show him.

Tommy follows the team to the

TESTING AREA

A relatively young and healthy monkey sits wide awake in a cage.

BETTY
I was performing normal reflex tests. And Donovan -

TOMMY
(looks around; confused)
Where is,--

HENRY
That's him.

Tommy touches the monkey's head. It's healed.

TOMMY
- It can't be. His scalp's almost healed. There's hair growth.

ANTONIO
I didn't believe it either - And it gets stranger.

BETTY
(nods in agreement)
Antonio had me run some tests. Donovan responded well. Really well -

Henry presses play on two video decks. A tape of Donovan performing tests appears on the screen...

ANTONIO
- I pulled up the videos of him pre-op.
(beat)
He's testing twice as well as last week.

HENRY
(jumps in; excited)
We're seeing an increase in neural activity and synaptic growth throughout all the areas usually stunted by normal aging.

Tommy's amazed. He can't believe it. He can't believe what he did. What this means. He touches Donovan's fingertips. It's impossible to believe that it's the same monkey.

Donovan jumps around, the fountain of youth surging through his body.

Tommy laughs, he can't help himself, can't help but get caught up in the joy of the moment...

Then, he remembers. Reality comes flooding back.

Tommy turns to his team.

TOMMY
- And the tumor?

Beat.

BETTY
No change.

Tommy closes his eyes. The disappointment nearly killing him.

BETTY
The growth has normal patterns, there's no positive or negative effect on it.

His shoulders sag. The weight returns.

HENRY
This is still major.

BETTY
- We should tell Dr. Guzetti. She's gonna have to inform the Board -

TOMMY
No.

Everyone stops.

TOMMY
(shakes his head)
Antonio, prep a new cocktail. We'll stick with the botanical substance, but add -

ANTONIO
(interrupts him)
What?

TOMMY
We're moving forward with the experimental design.

ANTONIO
But this might be a medical first. A revelation. We've got to pursue it. Duplicate the findings.

TOMMY
You can monitor the monkey's synaptic growth. But our main focus remains brain tumors, not aging.

ANTONIO
I know, but,--

TOMMY
(just shakes his head)
- Stop! I want the next subject prepped and ready for surgery tomorrow.

BETTY
We'll have to work through the night.

HENRY
(mutters to himself)
- Again.

TOMMY
(snaps)
So!? Who do you, - We're close. Damn close! If you don't want to work here - that's the door.

They all hurry off, leaving Tommy behind with Donovan. The monkey's all worked up from Tommy's outburst. Swinging back and forth in his cage.

CUT TO:

TOMMY & IZZI'S BEDROOM - DAWN

Tommy stands in the doorway of his bedroom and stares at his wife in their bed. She's asleep. On her side. Hugging a pillow. So peaceful.

A new day is dawning outside.

She's so beautiful. He holds back the tears.

Creeps into bed. Spoons her from behind. He rubs his nose against the soft hairs on the back of her neck.

She moans blissfully.

The sun breaks the horizon. Tommy and Izzi are flooded in a gentle morning glow.

She turns to him.

IZZI
Is everything all right?

Tommy kisses Izzi on the lips and nestles into her back.

TOMMY
Yes, everything's all right.

She closes her eyes. Drifts quickly into her dreams.

He tries to join her. But he can't.

The tears rush up. He fights to swallow them. Tries not to shake her.

The sobs battle with control.

He sits up in bed and heads into his

HOME OFFICE

Slumped in his chair, Tommy holds his face. He has no idea what to do.

Izzi's manuscript sits on his keyboard.
Its presence calms him.

He flips on the desk lamp and stares at the title.

Tommy opens to the first page and starts to read...

TOMMY'S POV

Drifting over the words...

"A shadow hung over Spain. The Grand Inquisitor tightened his bony fingers into two fists. Frustration twisted his sweaty thin lips. He cleared his throat of phlegm as he marched..."

And the words start to break apart.

The letters start to dissolve into dirty shadows.

An amorphous shape moves through darkness.

Two ancient hands swing into the torch light.
The fingers crack as they tighten into shaking fists.
A ring with the emblem of the Dominican Order.

We are nowhere near Izzi's bedside.

In fact, we have left present day and

The year is 1532 and

It's three years before the Mayan temple siege and we're in the motherland...

SEVILLE SPAIN

Shuffling through a cold, dark

PASSAGEWAY

We follow the bony frame of a hunched man. His lungs gasp for oxygen through a whistling, deviated septum.

This is SILECIO, the Grand Inquisitor himself. He is the leader of the Dominican Order. Gaunt and sunken-eyed, the Holy Father is a skeleton of a man.

He steps out onto a high rostrum overlooking the

ROYAL SQUARE - NIGHT

A great fire rages in the center of a cobblestone plaza.

Twelve wooden stakes surround the flames.
PRISONERS are bound to the poles.
They have been stripped and beaten.

The nobles, monks and nuns - settled in comfortable seats beneath the rostrum - look up at Silecio.

Silence. Everyone waits. Silecio surveys his domain.

A shrill voice bursts out of his chapped lips.

SILECIO
Repent and ye shall go to heaven.
Deny your sins and ye shall go to
hell.

The prisoners cry out. They confess, screaming for mercy.

Silecio holds up his hand. The prisoners hold their tongues.

SILECIO
Ask not for mercy. For death is
certain. Ask for forgiveness and
then eternity in heaven can surely
be yours.

The prisoners cry out in fear. There is no escape.

SMASH TO:

SEVILLE CITY LIMITS - SAME

A white horse shoots out of the darkness. Tomas gallops along a wooden bridge.

He is joined by five mounted soldiers. They show their horses no mercy, charging towards the golden barn fire in the distance.

RETURN TO:

ROYAL PLAZA - SAME

A TERRIFIED PRISONER stares into the darkness. His tear-filled eyes beg for a savior.

Up on the rostrum, a highly-decorated Dominican MONK hands Silecio an official document.

Silecio opens the scroll. He digests its contents.

Then, he clears his throat.

SILECIO
You the accused who say scandalous things against our holy Catholic Faith and against the officials of the Inquisition, who affirm that life is but birth and death, and that there is no paradise and no hell...

The prisoners cry out for mercy. On a nearby

BLUFF

On foot now, Tomas tells his men to lower their heads. They spy down on the proceedings.

Tomas loads a crossbow. Two other soldiers do the same. The rest silently pull out their rapiers.

Tomas lines up Silecio in his sight.

SILECIO
I hereby decree that upon such rebels be all the plagues and maledictions which befell and descended on King Pharoah. Let them perish in flames and be swallowed up into the earth for the great delinquencies and sins which they committed in disobedience and rebellion against our Lord God. Accursed
be they in living and dying.
(MORE)

SILECIO (cont'd)
Accursed be they to Satan and to Lucifer and to all the devils in hell.

The conquistador's finger firms its grip on the trigger. Ready to shoot. Beat.

A pebble is kicked across dirt. Footsteps approach. Tomas lowers the crossbow. Locks eyes with his men.

They all take cover against a nearby boulder.

As the intruder rounds the corner, Tomas' men ambush him.

They smash him against the boulder. Tomas' dagger is already against his jugular.

But the enemy is Captain Ariel, the mutinous Moor we last saw die on the end of Tomas' dagger. He is alive and well. He wears regal clothes and carries the insignia of the Queen.

Tomas lowers his blade. His men release him. Ariel is on their side.

Ariel whispers to Tomas.

ARIEL
You dare betray Spain's wishes?

TOMAS
The Holy Father grows more malignant with each passing day. This latest claim of heresy? Her majesty's closest allies? Nonsense. The Inquisitor is trying to isolate her. To kill her. He must be stopped before all Spain is his.

Tomas peeks over the bluff. Silecio rolls up the scroll. He hands it back to a monk. The prisoners moan in fear.

ARIEL
I agree. But you are ill prepared. His force will overwhelm you. Suicide is foolish.

TOMAS
At least, we will die fighting.

Silecio nods to twelve monks holding torches. The Dominicans approach the prisoners.

Tomas moves to attack. But Ariel grabs him once more.

ARIEL
Stop! The Queen has a plan. A clever design. Her majesty commands your presence. She demands it.

Tomas hears Ariel's request. He looks back at the twelve men going up in flames. Their screams are horrid.

ARIEL
Now.

Tomas sheaths his blade. He follows Ariel back towards their horses.

CUT TO:

VANITY ROOM

A sagging OLD LADY stares at herself in a mirror.

Her gray skin is scarred with wrinkles. Her eyes are cloudy with blue cataracts. Her teeth are stained yellow.

REVERSE onto Isabel. The old lady is clearly a reflection of her imagination.

Because Isabel, the Queen of Spain, is the same women we saw at the start of the film. She is young and beautiful. But apparently, her self-image is not strong.

When she lifts her arm the old lady lifts hers. Isabel's skin is smooth like silk. The old lady's skin is riddled with knotty veins.

Isabel is disgusted.

Her anger explodes. She picks up the nearest thing, a perfume bottle, and hurls it at her reflection.

The mirror shatters into golden shards in

SPACE

Particles smash into the bubble ship as it shoots through the nebula. The light show becomes

A GOLDEN CRUCIFIX

In 1532. Tomas kneels praying in a

PRIVATE CATHEDRAL

He is devout. His focus and prayer is complete.

Beat.

Ariel places a hand on Tomas' shoulder. Tomas looks up.

ARIEL
Spain is ready.

Tomas rises. He pushes through two great doors into the

THRONE ROOM

It is a stark, puritan room with little decoration.

Except for the Queen.

Isabel glows gold like the inside of the nebula.
Her gown flickers with blinding light.

Tomas looks away immediately. The majesty, his fear, her glory, it is all too much for him.

He approaches her. Ariel follows a few steps behind.

Tomas kneels before her. And he cries.

QUEEN ISABEL
My servant, why do you cry?

Tomas tries to stop his tears. He cannot.

TOMAS
To see Spain in such a state. With a disease growing in her very heart. It is too much. For I have failed her.

QUEEN ISABEL
Silence!
(beat)
Dare not pity Spain. Spain is great. And greatness shall never fall. My glory shall shine bright for all eternity.

TOMAS
(barely murmurs)
Of course.

QUEEN ISABEL
There is a plan. Hope.

TOMAS
(looks up)
Hope?

A screaming alarm:

BEEE

Tommy spots Izzi staring at one of the books. She looks better. It's a good day.

TOMMY
- what are you doing here?

She looks up and smiles at him.

IZZI
- hey. You fell asleep at your desk. Are you ok?

TOMMY
Fine -

IZZI
- I had to see this exhibit before it left.

Tommy wants to tell her she should be resting. She spins away and looks into a display case.

IZZI
(changes subject)
Mayan books. These are the rare ones the Spanish didn't burn. Look at this one.

She point to a codex. An image of a TREE BURSTING OUT OF A MAN'S STOMACH on an ancient scroll.

IZZI
The man is First Father, the Mayan Adam. Coming out of his stomach is the Tree of Life.

TOMMY
Is he dead?

IZZI
He sacrificed himself to make the world.

She turns around and hugs her husband. Her hands dance over his ticklish body as she talks.

IZZI
The tree's roots spread out and made the earth and its branches formed the sky.

Tommy's ticklish and even though he loves it he cringes.

IZZI
First Father's children cut off his head and stuck it on top of a pole.

She lunges for his head.

He laughs as he hugs her back. He's able to relax for a moment.

IZZI
The head became Shibalba.

He points up, remembering the star from last night.

TOMMY
Shi-bal-ba? The star?
(oops)
Nebula.

She nods.

IZZI
What do you think?

TOMMY
About?

IZZI
That idea. Death as an act of creation.

Tommy turns solemn. He watches a group of school children and their teacher pass by.

TOMMY
Why do you always focus on the grim, Iz?

Izzi walks to another display. Tommy watches her go. He turns back to the book.

First Father's face is painted with pain.

TOMMY
(on the book)
That's gotta hurt.

Beat.

Tomas senses something. Spins around.

He sees immediately something is wrong.

Across the room, Izzi reaches out grabbing for something, anything to brace herself.

We move in on Izzi's eyes. Her look of concern suddenly melts away.

A glimmer of light reflects off her eyes.
A distant star. She grins slightly.

Tommy sees this. He sees the look in her eyes.

It bewilders him.

But then, he sees her threatening to fall. He runs to her.

She knocks over the rope barrier. It CLANGS loudly to the floor. The guard approaches as the school children stare.

And then, she starts to fall. She slips into emptiness.

She lets go.

Tommy pushes through the students.
He grabs her. Holds her,
but it is a moment too late.

BLACK

FADE IN:

HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - LATE DAY

Tommy paces, can't keep still. He needs to do something, fix something, save something.

Beat.

A graying man, DR. ALAN LIPPER, emerges through swinging doors.

DR. LIPPER
Tommy -

TOMMY
(rushes toward him)
How is she?

Dr. Lipper quiets Tommy down, forces him to sit.

DR. LIPPER
Stable. She had a minor seizure. -
But she's fine for now.

TOMMY
For now?

DR. LIPPER
The growth is on the advance. It's strangling the medulla. That's what caused her insensitivity to temperature.

Dr. Lipper hands Tommy some MRIs. Tommy whips them up to the light, studying them closely.

DR. LIPPER
- It's only a matter of time until the swelling overcomes her.

Bang.

The words hit Tommy like a gunshot. He doesn't give in. There has to be a solution.

TOMMY
Surgery?

DR. LIPPER
(shakes his head)
You know it's too deep.

Tommy's not listening, studying the MRIs.

TOMMY
- What about chemo?

DR. LIPPER
I thought she decided--

TOMMY
(turns to him)
Will it give her more time?

Beat.

DR. LIPPER
She's terminal, Tommy. You know that.

TOMMY
(insistent)
Will it give me any more time?

DR. LIPPER
Maybe. But it definitely means pain. And this late in the game,--

TOMMY
I want to see her.

Tommy's already heading into the

ICU

Dr. Lipper follows.

Izzi is hooked up to a bunch of machines. She's floating on the edge of consciousness. She manages a smile for Tommy.

IZZI
Tommy -

Tommy kisses her. He sits down by her side on the edge of the bed.

Gets close to her ear.

TOMMY
(whispers; like he's telling her a secret)
- You're all right. Stable for now. But, we need to make some choices,--

IZZI
I'm close?

Tommy's does not understand the question.

TOMMY
We need another round of chemo -

IZZI
(to Dr. Lipper)
Alan. Am I?

The doctor answers her. He's done this many times before. He lives with death everyday.

DR. LIPPER
(nods his head)
You had a minor seizure. The growth in your brain stem is back and growing faster. The next time,-
- I'm sorry.

Tommy's eyes flash with anger.

TOMMY
No. No. We had a breakthrough at the institute, there's real hope -

IZZI
Tommy?

TOMMY
What? What, baby?

She strokes his hair.

IZZI
I'm not afraid.

TOMMY
I know. You're very strong.

IZZI
(shakes her head)
No. No. When I fell. I was full. Held.

TOMMY
Yes, I caught you. I held you.

Izzi drifts back into sleep. Beat.

TOMMY
It's OK, Iz. Everything will be all right.

Dr. Lipper puts his hand on Tommy's shoulder.

DR. LIPPER
Let's go, Tommy -

Tommy tenderly kisses his wife. Then, he turns and faces Dr. Lipper.

TOMMY
(almost pleading; desperate)
There's time. We have time.

DR. LIPPER
I know. I know.

Tommy gets up off the bed, heads for the door. Stuffing his emotions back down. He needs to get back to work.

TOMMY
(to Dr. Lipper; short)
- All decisions. Through me.

CITY STREET - NIGHT

Tommy crosses the street, moving fast. Always in a rush. His mind a million miles away. Deep in thought. It's just him. Numb. He doesn't hear or see anything.

Suddenly a car screeches! to a halt, just missing Tommy by a few inches.

The noise of downtown rushes in as Tommy is jolted from his cocoon. Tommy blinks. Turns and rushes away.

He just keeps moving forward.

CUT TO:

TOMMY'S LAB - HANDEL-SILVER - NIGHT

Tommy looks inside before he enters, sees Dr. Guzetti and a group of new scientists standing around Donovan. His whole team is there explaining the procedure.

Tommy storms in, ripping off his jacket.

TOMMY
What the hell -

LILLIAN
(stays calm)
Dr. Creo, you know Dr. Levinthal, Dr. Moss,--

TOMMY
I'm sorry, but you have no right being here.

LILLIAN
Antonio and Betty were -

BETTY
(excited)
Donovan's latest scans. Synaptic growth increased another thirteen percent! His brain is identical to scans from twelve years ago when he was six.

Tommy forgets his anger for a moment, the results so stunning. But then he remembers.

TOMMY
- And the tumor?

Betty looks away.

TOMMY
Exactly.
(shows everybody the door)
Please -

LILLIAN
(forces a smile;
to her colleagues)
Why don't you wait for me in my office. I'll be right there.

Manny nods, leads the doctors out.

Lillian stays behind with the rest of Tommy's team.

LILLIAN
- I'd like to talk to you in private, Thomas.

TOMMY
(shakes his head)
After surgery.

He just walks right by her.

CUT TO:

OPERATING ROOM - LATER

Tommy sweats through surgery. The weight of the world. Too heavy for words.

Beat.

Finally,

TOMMY
(to Betty; short)
When we're done here, I want you to prep Cain.

Betty drops her clamp and storms out.

ANTONIO
(turns to Tommy)
- I'll get her. She'll take care of it.

Tommy returns to work.

CUT TO:

SCRUB ROOM - LATER

Tommy, still in his bloody scrubs, studies some scans.

Lillian enters, furious.

LILLIAN
- What do you think you're doing!?

TOMMY
I don't have time, Lillian, not now. I have to stay on schedule.

LILLIAN
Schedule? You might have broken something big. The media is going to be all over this. Mr. Ponce de Leon. We have to play it by the book. That means repeat the procedure. Get a confirmation. Then, move on.

TOMMY
A confirmation that the tumor is unaffected?
(shakes his head)
- She'll be dead by then.

Beat.

She just looks at him.

He goes back to work; trying to find answers in the images.

LILLIAN
Tommy -

He doesn't look over.

She softens. Walks to him.

LILLIAN
- What happened?

TOMMY
(still looking at scans)
She had a seizure.

LILLIAN
How is she?

She tries to comfort him. He pulls away from her.

TOMMY
Stable. For now.

LILLIAN
- and who's with her?

Tommy looks up at Lillian.

Beat.

LILLIAN
She's alone?!

Tommy heads out of the room. He doesn't want to have this discussion. He just wants to get away from her. He walks out into the

HALLWAY

She chases after him. He lights a cigarette. Sucking it down.

LILLIAN
- What are you doing? No one develops new drugs overnight. No one -
(raises her voice)
You're not being rational, Tommy. You can't fix everything -

Everybody's watching them.

She follows him into his

OFFICE

He looks at his papers.

TOMMY
It's not your business -

LILLIAN
(pleads with him)
- Your wife needs you. Why are you here?

Tommy finally slaps down his papers.

TOMMY
(enraged)
Why the fuck do you think I'm here?

Beat.

Lillian just looks at him.

Turns around, and walks out of the room, leaving Tommy behind all alone.

Then, he notices that his wedding ring is still not on his finger.

Suddenly, he explodes. Rage pouring out of him. He dumps everything off his desk and collapses into his chair.

Beat.

CUT TO:

HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

Tommy runs down the hall toward

IZZI'S ROOM

The door's open. He peeks inside, sees Lillian sitting with Izzi, holding her hand. They don't notice Tommy at the door.

An old healthy woman stares into the eyes of a young dying woman. They are both open, completely open.

Izzi has seen something Lilly can just barely sense.

Lilly strains to understand with her brain. Nonetheless, with her heart she can feel Izzi's peace.

Izzi is thankful. She is understood. The calmness fills them both.

Their love soars through the room. Tommy takes a step back into the hall. The moment's moved him...

Beat.

He turns to go back, and runs smack! into Lillian leaving. The door closing shut behind her.

An awkward moment.

Beat.

LILLIAN
- She'll be glad you're here.

Tommy looks away.

TOMMY
I couldn't stay at the lab. Could,-
- Would you re-scan the animals?

LILLIAN
(frustrated)
Tommy -

Tommy sneaks a peek through the door window. Sees his wife sleeping.

He looks back at Lillian. He's in so much pain, anguish.

LILLIAN
(nods her head; relents)
Okay.

TOMMY
Thanks. Just for a few hours.

She puts a hand on his shoulder.

LILLIAN
- Take your time.

Tommy enters

IZZI'S HOSPITAL ROOM

The room is now flooded with late-afternoon light. Izzi is still asleep. He closes the door quietly.

It wakes her. Her eyes flutter open. She sees her husband standing there.

And she smiles.

IZZI
Tommy -

TOMMY
Sorry.

He walks over to her.

IZZI
You just missed Lilly -

TOMMY
Yeah, I ran into her in the hall. How you feeling?

IZZI
(deeply truthful)
Good.

He sits down by her side. Beat.

TOMMY
We're making progress. I think something -

IZZI
I talked to mom. She'll be here tomorrow.

TOMMY
Good. Did Alan talk to you about treatment?

IZZI
My conquistador. Always conquering.

She points to a wrapped present on the night stand next to her bed.

IZZI
That's for you.

TOMMY
- For me?

Izzi nods her head, her devilish smile peeks through her sickness. Tommy looks at her.

TOMMY
What is it?

IZZI
Open it -

Tommy grabs the present and pulls off the wrapping.

Inside a silk box is a beautiful fountain pen and a crystal jar filled with ink.

Tommy doesn't understand.

IZZI
Pen and ink. For writing.

She pulls out her manuscript and hands it to him.

IZZI
It's all done except the last chapter. I want you to help me.

TOMMY
How?

IZZI
Finish it.

Tommy doesn't want to hear what she's saying.

IZZI
Finish it.

TOMMY
I don't know how it ends.

IZZI
You do. You will.

Tommy feels extremely uncomfortable.

And now we are in

SPACE

Izzi and her bed sit in the

GARDEN

Tom, with his silver hair, sits where Tommy just was.

He is uncomfortable.

IZZI
Finish it.

Tom doesn't understand.

IZZI
Finish it.

TOM
I don't know how it ends.

IZZI
You do. You will.

Izzi stares at Tom. Her eyes reaching through time. Pleading. He nods. He understands her request.

Tom gets up from the bed. He is emotionally moved.

He lifts up his shirt. He looks at the freshly healed wound just beneath his heart. He pets it gently.

TOM
(remembering)
You do. You will.

Izzi and her bed are gone. Tom is all alone.

He reaches out to the healthy bark on the trunk. A few of the hairs reach back. It is weaker now.

He makes a decision.

TOM
OK. I'll try.

He collects some herbs and fungi from the dying garden. He mixes them on the surface of an indented rock. He places the rock next to the tree.

Tom sits beneath the wilted branches. He takes a deep breath, closes his eyes, and allows a dream to invade his mind.

A small breeze ripples his clothes as his mind opens up. Literally. The ancient stones of the Mayan temple rush out of his cranium and flood the garden and deep space.

In a moment, he looks down at his feet and realizes he's wearing armor.

And now, he's no longer Tom. He is in fact

The great conquistador Captain Tomas Creo.

It is the year 1535 and Tomas struggles for his life in a

CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREST

His men have been massacred. He is fighting his last stand.

TOMAS
I shall not die. Not here.
Not now. NEVER!

But the Mayans are too fierce. They are too numerous.

Once again, they surge forward.

He trips. Loses his footing.

Stumbling backwards. Momentum takes him.

SCREAMING!

Slowly falling through air, he lands hard.

THUD!

His eyes shudder. He almost loses consciousness.

He fights to stay awake. He keeps fighting. He keeps swinging.

But, no one is attacking him. He is alone.

He looks back at his enemy. A huge Mayan force stares at him quietly. They stand five feet from him but they don't dare attack.

They don't dare take a step. Between them and Tomas is a gateway lined with fresh skulls.

He has fallen onto sacred ground. For the moment he is safe.

Behind him are steps. Steep steps.

Hovering above Tomas is a great

MAYAN PYRAMID

It stretches ten stories high.

A glow of firelight radiates from the mount.

The enemy army kneels.
Their heads bowed.
Their weapons lowered.

Tomas does not understand.

He hears someone moving down the stone steps.

Walking down from the mount is the Mayan spiritual leader, the PAPAS. He wears a frightening headdress made of skulls covered with fresh human skin. His long hair is knotted with caked blood and pieces of pink flesh.

He carries a flaming obsidian sword.

Tomas struggles to his feet.

He breaks off the arrows sticking into his armor.

The Papas arrives at the bottom of the stairs.

Tomas reaches for his own sword. It is gone.

He pulls out his only weapon, Father Avila's Mayan dagger. It will have to do.

The Papas stares at his prey with bloodshot eyes.

PAPAS
(in Mayan; with subtitles)
First Father sacrificed himself to the tree of life. Enter and join his fate.

Tomas doesn't understand. The Papas knows this. He smiles. His teeth are filed to vampire points.

Tomas attacks. The Papas sidesteps and counters.

The flaming sword splits the air. Instantly, the point lands firmly in Tomas' chest.

His shirt catches fire.

The front of it burns away revealing a nasty gash just beneath the conquistador's heart.

He stumbles backwards holding the wound.

For the first time, we see fear grip Tomas. Death is close. His eyes race. His breath quickens.

He is going to die...

Victoriously, the Mayan moves in for the kill.

PAPAS
(in Mayan; with subtitles)
Death is the road to awe

The Papas lifts the flaming blade and

Tomas shrinks back and

The blade rushes toward the crown of his head.

And as it hits

SMASH TO:

CLOSE ON TOM CREO

Eyes pop open.

TOM
Noooooo!

He is back in the

GARDEN

Shooting through space. Alone.

He takes a breath. The nightmare again. But something is wrong.

He looks down at his shirt. It's sticky and wet.

It's blood. His blood. Gently, he raises his shirt.

There's a cut just beneath his heart, in the same exact place the Mayan stabbed Tomas with the flaming sword. The same spot that had just healed.

It is painful. He carefully moves to a small pond. Each step hurts.

He rinses the wound. It is deep. There's a lot of blood.

IZZI (O.S.)
Finish it.

Tom looks up. Izzi calls from her hospital bed in the garden.

Tom presses down on the wound.

TOM
I can't.

IZZI
Finish it.

Tom shows her his wound.

TOM
I don't know how!

Tom tries to hold back the tears but can't.

IZZI
Finish it.

TOM
Stop it!

IZZI
Finish it.

TOM
It's KILLING me!

And he jams his eyes shut, screaming himself back into the past.

IZZI'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Tommy sits by Izzi's side. He is calm now.

IZZI
You do. You will.

Beat.

TOMMY
I don't know how it ends.

IZZI
You do. You will.

Tommy feels uncomfortable.

TOMMY
Honey -

Izzi smiles. Like she knows a secret.

IZZI
Remember Moses Morales?

TOMMY
Who?

IZZI
The Mayan shaman.

TOMMY
(remembering)
From your trip?

IZZI
(nods)
The last night I was with him he told me about his father. He had died. But Moses wouldn't believe it.

TOMMY
(pleads)
Izzi, -

IZZI
Listen. He said if they dug his father's body up it would be gone. They had planted a seed over his grave. The seed became a tree. Moses said, his father became part of that tree. He grew into the wood and into the bloom. Then, he said, when a sparrow ate the tree's fruit his father flew with the birds. And when a hunter ate the sparrow his father lived on in that man.
(making the point)
He said, death was his father's road to awe. That's what he called it. The road to awe.
(about her manuscript)
When I wrote this, I couldn't get that out of my head -

TOMMY
Why are you telling me this?

IZZI
(quiet)
I'm not afraid anymore, Tommy.

Tommy just shakes his head.

IZZI
I asked Lilly if I could be buried at her farm.

Tommy gets up off the bed.

TOMMY
No! Stop it. I want you to be with me.

IZZI
I am with you. I am. I'll always be with you.

She reaches out her hand.

IZZI
I promise.

Tommy takes her hand. He tries to hold it all in. He struggles to stay strong.

She stares at him. Beat.

He nervously glances at his watch. She smiles at his predictability.

IZZI
Stay with me.

Tommy's desire for the lab, his drive to make things right, pulls on him.

Izzi starts to shut her eyes.

IZZI
(encouraging plea)
While I sleep?

Izzi slowly falls asleep as Tommy holds her hand.

She shuts her eyes.

TOMMY
I'll stay.

In the

GARDEN

In 2150, Tom watches Izzi's hand disappear from his own.

TOM
I'll stay.

But Izzi is gone. Tom is alone.

He looks down at his open wound. It is still bleeding.

Tom shuffles to the tree. The small hairs on the healthy bark reach out towards him.

TOM
(whispers to the tree)
Don't worry. We are almost there. Shibalba will die. And when it explodes, you will be reborn. You will bloom. We <u>will</u> live.

Carefully, like a surgeon, he removes a small amount of bark. A very small amount.

He mixes it with herbs and fungi. He adds some saliva.

Then he applies the mixture to a piece of dried up moss.

He pushes the moss against his wound. It burns.
But then it brings relief.

He leans against the tree. He slowly shuts his eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.

IZZI'S HOSPITAL ROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

It's dark when Tommy wakes. Izzi sleeps soundly.

Her breaths are deep and long. Even more at peace.

He looks at his watch. It's almost dawn.

Carefully, he tiptoes into the hallway.

HOSPITAL PHONE - HALLWAY - LATER

Tommy's on the phone. Talking quietly.

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
- She's sleeping. How's Donovan?

LILLIAN (OS PHONE)
Henry ran a new scan -

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
And?

LILLIAN (OS PHONE)
Well, synaptic growth seems to have leveled off. The malignant mass is the same, - maybe a slight decrease.

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
Decrease?!

LILLIAN (OS PHONE)
Slight, Tommy. It's not unheard of.

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
No. It could be something. Scan him again, I can be there in,--

He looks back toward Izzi's room.

Beat.

LILLIAN (OS PHONE)
Tommy, you need to be there -

Beat.

Beat.

TOMMY (INTO PHONE)
(eyes still on Izzi's room)
- Yeah. You're right.
(beat)
Will you check him again?

LILLIAN (OS PHONE)
Of course.

Tommy hangs up, stares at the phone for a moment, then sneaks back into

IZZI'S ROOM

He looks at his wife's luminous face.

God, she's beautiful, glowing in the early dawn light.

He reaches out to touch her face.

His fingers stop a few inches from contact.

Decides not to disturb her.

Tommy sits in the chair next to her bed and accidentally sits on the notebook.

He picks up the manuscript and quietly flips on a bedside lamp.

He opens to where he left off...

TOMMY'S POV

Drifting over the words...

"The conquistador prayed. He prayed for Spain. He prayed for his Queen..."

The letters start to sparkle and flair.

And the golden particles of

SPACE

Return us to

SEVILLE

Tomas Verde kneels, praying to the golden crucifix hanging in a

PRIVATE CATHEDRAL

Ariel disturbs him.

ARIEL
She is ready.

Tomas rises. He pushes through two great doors into the stark

THRONE ROOM

Fear and awe prevent Tomas from locking eyes with the Queen.

He falls to his knees. He can't stop the tears.

QUEEN ISABEL
My servant, why do you cry?

TOMAS
To see Spain in such a state. With a disease growing in her very heart. It is too much. For I have failed her.

QUEEN ISABEL
Silence!
(beat)
Dare not pity Spain. Spain is great. And greatness shall never fall. My glory shall shine bright for all eternity.

TOMAS
(barely murmurs)
Of course.

QUEEN ISABEL
There is a plan. Hope.

TOMAS
Hope?

QUEEN ISABEL
Father.

From the shadows behind her throne out steps Father Avila.

The same Franciscan priest we saw torn to pieces in the swamps of New Spain. He wears a clean brown robe.

Ariel helps Tomas to his feet.

ARIEL
(whispers)
This is Father Avila of her majesty's royal Franciscan order. Their allegiance remains with Spain.

FATHER AVILA
Captain.

TOMAS
Father.

FATHER AVILA
This is our hope.

Father Avila pulls the Mayan obsidian dagger out from under his robe. He hands it to Tomas.

Tomas looks at the priest. He doesn't understand.

FATHER AVILA
Spoils from the Cordoba expedition, nine years past.

TOMAS
What is it? A dagger?

FATHER AVILA
Ceremonial. Of religious matters. It was taken from around the neck of a Mayan priest. The glyph on the blade, do you see it?

Tomas looks at the triangular glyph. The one that looks like the stars in the sky. He nods.

FATHER AVILA
It is what intrigued me about the piece. I saw the sign in the heathen's scrolls, on their greatest works of gold. I knew it was of importance. The Order has worked to decipher it.
(MORE)

FATHER AVILA (cont'd)
After five years of selfless study, we have unlocked its meaning and by doing so we have also unlocked the Mayan's greatest secret.

Tomas leans in, wanting to know the secret.

Beat.

FATHER AVILA
In Chetumal, in New Spain, in lands already claimed by her majesty lays the Mayan's greatest treasure. But it is not gold. Nor silver.

Beat.

TOMAS
Yes...

FATHER AVILA
(points at glyph)
These are words that describe a lost pyramid.
(corrects himself)
No not lost - hidden. A hidden pyramid built upon the navel of the Earth. The birthplace of life.

Tomas examines the glyph.

FATHER AVILA
They believe a special tree sprouts there. The Tree of Life. They say whoever drinks of its sap will live forever.

Tomas looks at the priest. He turns towards the Queen, his mind filled with doubt.

TOMAS
Eternal life. Is this not sacrilege?

FATHER AVILA
In Genesis, Adam and Eve were forbidden from partaking of the fruit from two trees. The first was the Tree of Knowledge, the other was the Tree of Life. When Adam and Eve committed the original sin by eating from the Tree of Knowledge the Lord banned them from Eden and hid the Tree of Life.

ARIEL
Perhaps your Lord hid this tree in New Spain.

TOMAS
This is fantastic. But can it be true? If all men are to live forever on Earth, then who shall live in Heaven?

FATHER AVILA
Heaven and Earth shall become as it once was - one and the same. Christ died on the cross and redeemed our sins. We have been forgiven for the crime of Eve. Now is the time to return to the Garden and join our Lord God.

ARIEL
Eternal life? Imagine it. Whoever possesses such a treasure.
(at a loss for words)
Infinite riches, infinite power, infinite glory.

QUEEN ISABEL
Glory for Spain. For all eternity.

Everyone turns to the Queen. No one looks at her.

All chins are dipped. Everyone stares at the ground.

QUEEN ISABEL
Kneel conquistador.

Tomas kneels immediately. The priest and Ariel step back.

QUEEN ISABEL
The Beast runs amok in my kingdom. His master in Rome has might superior to every army in the world. Even Spain must sit and watch as her lands are stolen from her.
(beat)
We have little choice. We must fight. And fight, Spain shall. Eternal life? From the jungles of New Spain? A land which has brought us unimaginable wonders.

Someone places a hand on Tomas' shoulder.

It is the Queen. She stands before him. He rises.

Tomas cannot look at Isabel.

The sun is rising outside. Golden light floods the heavens and the room.

QUEEN ISABEL
Will you deliver Spain from bondage?

Tomas doesn't even need to think about an answer. The Queen wishes something to be done, he will do it.

TOMAS
Glory be thy name. I shall not stop until I free Spain.

She pulls the gold ring from a necklace around her neck and gently places it into his palm.

Tomas stares at the ring.

QUEEN ISABEL
Then, you shall ride with her majesty's banner. It has been blessed with Spain's will. And through it you shall live forever.

The Queen closes Tomas' hand around the ring.

Only his heartbeat for a moment. Then the beat falters. Like a heart attack.

BEEE

Flat line.

The book slips to the floor...

Tommy jumps up to her side. He slams the red emergency button for the nurse as he starts CPR.

He beats Izzi's chest. Forces his breath into her mouth. Kissing her, kissing her...

The bedside phone starts to ring.

The sun is rising outside.

The revival team bursts in. They try to push Tommy away from his wife

Not a chance.

TOMMY
- No. Izzi. Don't!
Please!
Please-
Please-

Finally they force him out of the way and out into the

HALLWAY

where a NURSE tries to comfort him.

YOUNG NURSE
Please. Sir -

Tommy tries to get back inside. The nurse blocks his entrance.

YOUNG NURSE
(firm)
- The on-duty doctor is the best.

Tommy turns away from her. He can't just stand by, doing nothing.

He starts to stalk the hallways like a caged animal.

Up and down. Up and down. Up and down.
Up and

He catches sight of a patient in another room.
It's an old man bathed in early morning light.
They make eye contact.

The old man stares blankly at Tommy. His eyes crusted with tears. Tubes sticking down his throat, out of his nose. Lungs laboring for breath, wheezing for air...

For some reason, Tommy can't look away. Can't stop staring. He sees the old man's left hand twitching ever so slightly. He sees brown spots, wrinkles, bent arthritic fingers. And a gold wedding ring.

Tommy glances down at his own hand, his own wedding ring still missing.

He looks back up, starts to turn away when

for a moment

the old man's eyes become his own eyes.

He's staring at himself. Old and decrepit.

His world slows. Falls silent.

He looks at the man's left hand. The ring is gone.

Horror fills Tommy...

He's about to panic when

Suddenly Lillian rushes by.

LILLIAN
- Tommy?

Tommy snaps around. Reality rushes back.

TOMMY
(bewildered)
Lilly?

Tommy grabs her and hugs her tight.

She doesn't see the anguish or the fear in his face because the news she holds is so great.

LILLIAN
I know. I know. I, I've never seen anything like it. It's,--

Tommy pulls back confused.

TOMMY
What are you,--

LILLIAN
Antonio didn't get you? - You didn't hear?

TOMMY
(shakes his head)
What?

LILLIAN
(overwhelmed with joy)
It's Donovan. The growth is shrinking. The disease is cured!

TOMMY
Cured?
(remembering)
- Izzi.

Tommy races toward Izzi's room. His eyes wide with terror.

IN SPACE

The year 2150, Tom looks down at his wound. He lifts his shirt. Removes the moss bandage. The wound is healed.

TOM
(to himself)
Cured?

He remembers something. He looks up concerned.

TOM
Izzi.

Back in the present, Tommy charges into

IZZI'S HOSPITAL ROOM

just as the on-duty doctor, DR. SPENCER, is backing away from the bed. The nurses are turning off the machines. The phone still ringing. The sun rising outside the window on a new day and

Tommy sees the black screen.

Sees the blank expressions on faces.

Sees all the emptiness in the room.

And then, finally

he sees Izzi, his wife.

Eyes closed.

The life gone out of her.

She looks different.

Smaller. She's dead.

Beat.

CLOSE ON TOMMY

The blood draining from his face. This helpless feeling. He doesn't know what to do. He doesn't know how to fix this. His world is shattered...

Lillian rushes into the room behind him.

TOMMY
No no no no no no no no no no no no -

Tommy pushes past Dr. Spencer, and races for his wife's bed.

DR. SPENCER
(with great compassion)
Sorry, -

Tommy starts CPR again. Punching her chest, breathing into her mouth. So desperate.

Trying to force life back into her...

Dr. Spencer puts a hand on Tommy.

DR. SPENCER
(concern)
It's too late -

Tommy explodes, spinning on Spencer. Throwing him up against the wall. Phone ringing.

The nurses and residents try to pull Tommy away, but his grip is too tight. He needs to hang onto somebody. Something. Anything...

He won't let go. He's killing the man.

Finally, Tommy releases him and turns back to his dead wife.

He turns and races back to Izzi's bed.

Starts giving her CPR again.

Screaming at her.

Phone ringing. Lillian jumps in, grabbing Tommy by the shoulders.

LILLIAN
(screaming)
Tommy! Tommy -

Sun rising.

Tommy breathing into his wife's mouth. Tears falling down his face. Fighting. Fighting. Not letting go. Never letting go.

TOMMY
No! Izzi!

A shriveled leaf falls past him to the ground.

He stops pumping. In shock, he looks down at the leaf.

Back in

SPACE

Tom is terrified. He looks up into the branches. All of the leaves have detached from the tree. They float freely in zero-g.

Tom tries not to panic. Alarm disrupts his breaths.

He runs to the tree. He reaches for the little hairs. They do not reach back.

TOM
Nooooo!

He searches for life. Any life. Panic rising.

But the tree is dead.

TOM
Don't die! Not now! We're almost there!

Tom rounds the tree and sees Lillian. It stops him cold.

She stands with a group of mourners around an open grave under the tree in the garden.

The golden nebula disappears.
The heavens turn gray with snow clouds.

Tom once again becomes Tommy. He wears a black suit and stands in the windswept snow-filled field of

LILLIAN'S FARMHOUSE - DAY

Up on the hill is a hundred-year-old wooden home.

There's no emotion on Tommy's face. There's nothing at all.

LILLIAN
It seems to me we struggle for a lifetime to become whole. Few of us ever do. Most of us end up going out the same way we came in - kicking and screaming.

A few of the guests grin to themselves, knowingly. But, as snowflakes melt on Tommy's face, anger builds in his brow.

LILLIAN
Most of us don't have the courage - or the strength - or the conviction. Most of us don't want to face our fears. But sometimes, it happens. Young as she was, Izzi managed to accomplish that. In her death she became whole. She saw her life as a journey. Death was part of that road.

Tommy looks up at Lillian like he could kill her. He lets out a painful grunt.

Spins around and marches off alone in the snow.

LILLIAN
Tommy.

He ignores her. Keeps moving.

She moves after him.

LILLIAN
Tommy!

She grabs his wrist. He stops spins around.

LILLIAN
It's okay. She was okay. She accepted her death.

Rage boils quickly to the surface, overflowing.

TOMMY
STOP IT! You can't accept death. Death is the end, it's nothing!

LILLIAN
It's everything. Everything must end!

TOMMY
That's not the way it has to be. I'm going to change it. Death will be no more!

SMASH TO:

BLACK

Out of the darkness emerges the Mayan leader. The Papas.

Still holding the flaming obsidian sword.

At the base of the

MAYAN PYRAMID

Back in the year 1535. The Mayan army watches.

PAPAS
(in Mayan; with subtitles)
Death is the road to awe.

The Papas raises the sword. He swings it down, thunderously splitting dry air.

Flames everywhere. Words emerge. Izzi's words. Her handwriting...

"Tomas' fear paralyzed him. All he could see was death."

CLOSE ON TOMMY

In the year 2004.

He sits on the edge of his bed. His clothes crumpled. His hair messy. Black bags under his eyes. Hours since Izzi's funeral.

He's reading her book. The last words of it.

On the next page it says, "Chapter Twelve." But there is nothing written.

Confused, he flips through the pages searching for the ending. There is none.

Tommy looks at the gifts Izzi gave him. The inkwell and the pen. They rest on the night stand next to the bed.

He re-reads the last few words. He doesn't get it.

He closes the book. It slips from his hand. Hits the bedroom floor.

He covers his face.

And then, the pain of loss floods up his spine.

He smashes his fists onto the night stand. The lamp wobbles as the inkwell spills over.

Tommy watches blankly as the ink rushes across the night stand and drips onto the wooden floor.

Drip, drip, drip...

He does nothing.

Looks at his left hand. The wedding ring is still missing. Slowly, he reaches for the fountain pen.

Gently, he presses the tip of the pen into the tan line on his ring finger. A perfect semi-circular drop of blood bubbles to the surface.

He taps the pen into the spilled ink. Then, presses the ink into the open pin prick.

The tears pour out. He continues to tattoo.

CUT TO:

HANDEL-SILVER LABORATORIES, HALLWAY - LATER

Tommy heads toward his lab. A group of colleagues turn and stare. Awkward condolences are offered.

Tommy ignores them and walks into his

LAB

Manny is working with Donovan. He spins around.

MANNY
(surprised)
- Dr. Creo!

Tommy ignores him, makes his way up to the healthy monkey.

He's stern, direct. No emotion at all.

TOMMY
Get me the latest scans -

Antonio reaches out to touch Tommy. Tommy sees the hand coming. Before contact can be made, he's out of range.

ANTONIO
Are you okay?

TOMMY
(ignores question)
Update me on every step you've taken since the initial procedure.

His team just stares at him.

TOMMY
(stronger)
DAMN IT! Come on! The Donovan breakthrough is our starting point. Stopping aging. Stopping death is our goal. Come on! We've got work to do.

His team reacts. They start doing their jobs.

Antonio is left alone looking at Tommy.

Then he turns and walks away. Tom is left alone in the

GARDEN

Back in 2150. Tom stares at Antonio as he steps behind the tree and disappears.

Once again he is alone. Suddenly he explodes with anger:

TOM
DAMN IT! Come on! We've got work to do.

But no one is around to react. He blinks.

Beat.

The garden starts to shake. So does the tree.

Tom looks up.

OUTSIDE

The bubble smashes through the thickest part of the nebula. Particles collide with the surface.

Millions of particles. Maybe even billions.
It is a beautiful fireworks show.

The rattling and shaking builds until suddenly it stops.

The ship bursts out of the nebula into a clearing.

In the center of the clearing is a star. A dying star. Shibalba.

Million mile high waves of fire and radiation twist out into space.

In the

GARDEN

Tom stares at the star through the branches of the tree.

And it is an amazing sight.

TOM
All those years. Working. Fighting. To get to Shibalba. To get here for <u>now</u>!

He looks at the dead tree.

TOM
DAMN IT! Come on! We've got work to do.

No answer. He repeats himself.

TOM
DAMN IT! Come on! We've got work to do.

Beat. The desperation shoots through him.

TOM
No no no no no no no no no no no no -

He rushes to the tree. He hits it. He pumps it. He breathes into it. Trying to wake it. Trying to save it. He fights. Not letting go. Never letting go.

TOMMY
No! Izzi! Izzi!

He senses something. Someone is watching him.

Tom spins around.

It is Izzi. Once again, she's wearing her winter jacket and jeans.

Tom explodes with anger.

TOM
Why!? Why haunt me! Now that it's over. I've failed. I failed you, I failed myself! The tree is dead! I can't save you. I can't save anyone! What do you want?!

But Izzi doesn't answer she just stares at him.

TOM
LEAVE ME! LEAVE ME ALONE!

He breaks down and cries. All alone. No one to comfort him but this apparition.

TOM
Please! Please! I'm afraid.

He falls to her feet. Beat.

His tattooed ring finger catches his eye.

He touches the ancient tattoo. In

SILENCE

A flash memory of Izzi in her hospital bed. Dead.

Tommy being pulled away. Screaming, but there's no noise.

Just Izzi's dead face - at peace.

Complete peace.

In the

GARDEN

Tom's sobs start to subside.

Someone places a hand on his shoulder. He looks up.

It is Queen Isabel. She motions for him to rise.

Still in the garden shooting through space.

QUEEN ISABEL
Will you deliver Spain from bondage?

Tom does not know how to answer.

TOM
I don't know how.

The Queen is now Izzi in her jacket and jeans.

IZZI
You do. You will.

TOM
I'm going to die.

Izzi is once again the Queen. She glows gold.

She places the gold ring in Tom's hand.

QUEEN ISABEL
Then, you shall ride with her majesty's banner. It has been blessed with Spain's will. And through it you shall live forever.

And

TOMAS CREO LOOKS UP

And

TOMMY CREO LOOKS UP

And

TOM CREO LOOKS UP

At Izzi.

Something sparkles in his eyes. Inspiration.

An idea.

TOM
I will live forever.

Tom smiles. A huge smile spreading <u>wider and wider</u>.

His hand is empty. The ring is gone. He clutches his fingers into a fist of determination.

Tommy's hand becomes a fist. Tomas' hand becomes a fist.

Tom looks up at Izzi.

TOM
(excited now)
I will live forever.

She doesn't respond. She just stares at him.

So he goes for it.
He lowers his chin. Takes a beat.
And he looks back up at her.

TOM
(playing the part)
What are you doing here?

IZZI
Come on, let's take a walk.

Space disappears and we return to 2004. In

TOMMY'S OFFICE

Tom is gone. Tommy is surrounded by his papers.

TOMMY
I have too much work.

IZZI
It's the first snow. We always--

TOMMY
I can't, I have so much to do.

IZZI
Come on Tommy.

TOMMY
PLEASE, Izzi!

Izzi lowers her chin as she leaves.

TOMMY
I'll see you tonight. OK?

She doesn't answer.

He is alone for a moment. Finally, he can't take it anymore. He chases after her.

In the

HALLWAY

He bumps into a breathless Manny.

MANNY
Antonio's on his way back.

Tommy watches Izzi exiting down the hall.

MANNY
Donovan's still prepped and ready.

This is the moment.

He can choose his wife or his work. His life or his death.

Beat.

This time he turns his back on Manny.
He turns his back on his work.
He turns his back on his future.

He heads down the hallway after his wife.

MANNY
Dr. Creo, where are you -

But Tommy is gone.

OUTSIDE

The door swings shut. Tommy looks up into

SPACE

Back in 2150, Tom stares at the star.

Beat.

He grabs a tree branch and pulls himself up into

ZERO-G

He floats towards the bow of the ship. Tom straightens himself so that he is hurtling face first toward the blinding glow of Shibalba.

He reaches out his hand. Izzi is walking with him in 2004 through a

SNOW COVERED FIELD

The winter's first snow sprinkles gentle flakes onto the lovers.

Tommy turns to Izzi.

TOMMY
(to her)
I know how it ends.

They join hands and keep walking. He smiles at his future. She smiles at him. Back on

THE SHIP

Tom stares at Shibalba. Izzi is gone.

TOM
(to himself)
I can finish it.

He folds his legs into the lotus position.

His body reaches the top of the bubble. He keeps moving. A small sphere, the diameter of his body, buds off of the main ship.

This miniature bubble surrounds Tom protecting him from space as he soars closer to the dying star.

Tom takes a deep breath and allows the dream to invade his mind.

A breeze flows around him. Space is engulfed by a

CENTRAL AMERICAN JUNGLE

The conquistador's eyes pop open. Filled with adrenaline.

Tomas stands before the

MAYAN PYRAMID

Directly in front of him stands the Papas, the leader of the Mayans.

He wields the obsidian sword drenched with fire. The golden flames dance wildly across the black volcanic glass blade.

PAPAS
(in Mayan; with subtitles)
First Father sacrificed himself to the tree of life. Enter and join his fate.

Tomas attacks. He lifts his blade and swings.

The Papas ducks under the blow. A quick counter.

Fire cuts through dry air. In the blink of an eye Tomas has been struck.

Blood drips from the open wound below his heart.

CUT TO:

SPACE

Tom's eyes pop open. He gasps in pain.

Blood runs down his stomach.

But this time he just stares at the wound. He is not afraid.

He welcomes the pain.

Closes his eyes.

CUT TO:

MAYAN PYRAMID

Tomas, injured, stares at the Papas.

The enemy prepares to finish the conquistador off.

PAPAS
(screaming in Mayan; with subtitles)
Death Is The Road To Awe!

The Mayan lifts the flaming blade and

brings it down on Tomas.

The conquistador calmly closes his eyes. In

SPACE

Tom breathes...

Calm. Silence.

And

Tom

Just

Lets

Go...

Back at the

MAYAN PYRAMID

Tomas is at complete peace. He spreads his arms, welcoming death.

But the death blow does not come. Something is wrong.

Tomas opens his eyes. The flaming sword hovers inches above Tomas' skull.

The Papas stares at the conquistador. A stare of recognition.

The Mayan drops the blade and kneels before the Spaniard.

The Papas dips his head.

PAPAS
(in Mayan; with subtitles)
Forgive me. First Father. I did not know it was you.

Tomas just stares at the Papas. He was expecting death. Not this.

Beat.

Tomas looks back at the kneeling Mayan army.

PAPAS
(in Mayan; with subtitles)
I too shall be immortal. I welcome the holy dread.

The Mayan leader stabs himself in the heart with Father Avila's Mayan dagger. The Papas falls backwards, a smile on his lips.

The Mayan army watches silently. Tomas looks at them. They lower their eyes, hiding from his gaze.

The fierce conqueror returns. The fire in Tomas' eyes.

He yanks the dagger from the shaman's corpse.

Tomas steps through the growing puddle of blood.
He walks up the steep steps to his destiny.

ON THE PYRAMID MOUNT

He stares back at the jungle.

The sun is just rising.

In

SPACE

Tom opens his eyes and watches Shibalba shrink into a pinpoint of blinding white light.

It is the final moment before the star explodes.

Back in

NEW SPAIN

Tomas turns into the

PYRAMID SHRINE

A dark musty small room filled with billowing sweet-smelling incense. The stucco walls are coated with blood.

In the back of the shrine, there is a staircase leading up. Tomas can see the morning sky.

He slowly steps up into an

ENDLESS FIELD

It is a wide open prairie stretching forever in all directions.

In the center of the field is the

TREE

It is ancient. Knotted and twisted with years of wisdom. Lush with life;

it might be the same tree that's in the space ship. But somehow, it's different. This tree glows with a magical inner light.

Its maze-like wrinkled roots wind through the green green grass.

Tomas steps up into the field and feels as if he's staring at the face of God.

He removes his armored shoes. Barefoot, he carefully heads to the tree.

At the base of the tree, he kneels.

TOMAS
"Behold, the man has become as one of us, to know good and evil. And now, what if he should put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and then live forever?"

Slowly, he reaches out to touch the bark. His fingers stop an inch from the trunk. The air layer surrounding the tree vibrates ever so gently under his fingertips. Little yellow hairs reach out to greet him. He pulls back his hand.

Then, in a single motion, he plunges the obsidian dagger into the tree.

Birds of Paradise nesting in the branches noisily flap away.

A droplet of thick white sap slowly flows down the blade...

Tomas watches closely as it falls from the hilt and tumbles to earth.

Amazingly, when the sap makes contact with the ground beneath the green green grass, beautiful blooming flowers shoot out towards the sky.

Life.

Tomas carefully touches the sap. Nothing happens. He wipes the sap across the wound beneath his heart.

For a moment, it burns and his breath shortens.

But soon, he feels relief. Right in front of his eyes, Tomas watches the wound close and heal. And in

SPACE

Tom sees the wound disappear.

Back in the

GRAND PLAZA

Tomas, excited now notices the sap has stopped flowing. The tree has sealed its wound.

He pulls the dagger out.

Then he uses all of his strength to drive the dagger in deeper.

The sap flows more freely...

He uses his hands as a cup and he gulps down the sap from the tree like a man dying of thirst.

After three generous swallows, his head whips back.

His arms spread wide. He stares up at the tree.

To him, it looks unbelievable. It's the most amazing thing he's ever seen. It's buzzing with life.

He is witness to the fabric uniting all. The leaves on the branches are the clouds in the vast blue sky and the waves in the deep blue sea.

And now it is Shibalba.

For a brief moment, the conquistador soars alone through

SPACE

towards the pinpoint of light.

He becomes fully aware of all life in the entire universe. He is a part of it and he takes a deep peaceful breath from the bottom of his soul.

Iiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiin - and - Ouuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuut

A huge smile rushes across his face.

He reaches in his pocket for the ring the Queen gave him.

TOMAS
My Queen. Now and forever we shall be together.

As he is about to place it on his finger, something gets stuck in his throat.

He is instantly back in the

MAYAN GARDEN

He coughs.

Something is wrong.

Tomas coughs again.

And again.

Now, he can no longer breathe. He's choking. Suffocating.

Dying. The ring slips from his hand. He grabs for it.

But it is lost in the green green grass.

His body's convulsing, retching.

He coughs again. And again.

He is able to push out the word:

TOMAS

Why?

Then, he coughs again. This time, living, blooming flowers shoot out of his mouth. He coughs again. More flowers rush out of his mouth. His mouth is stuffed open, his jaw jammed open. They are beautiful, healthy and living flowers.

Tomas collapses to his knees and crashes onto his back beneath the tree.

He looks down below his heart where he was wounded. Something's bubbling beneath his skin. Boiling up.

Suddenly it bursts open. Flowers spring forth from the wound. They rush out of him feverishly...

A pool of flowers rush out from beneath him as if it was his blood. Then, a shock wave of flowers flows outward from the wound and transforms his flesh into row after row of flowers.

He cries out in pain as he completely disappears.

Only flowers in the shape of his body remain.

And the gold ring resting on top. The symbol of his Queen.

The symbol of his wife's love.

Glimmering in the sunlight.

Beat.

A tattooed hand picks up the ring.

Pulling it into

SPACE

Tom slides the ring onto his finger. It perfectly covers the first tattoo he gave himself so long ago.

And

SHIBALBA

Goes

Supernova.

The explosion sends a blinding sphere of white light into space. It rushes at Tom.

He takes his final deep breath just as the white wall of light crashes over him.

Tom's face fills with awe as his body burns white hot. His flesh splits the light shattering it into the colors of the rainbow.

His body breaks apart, as his atoms rain down onto the black dying tree, smothering it with red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet rays of energy.

And the tree stirs.

Spring and Summer erupt. All of life springs forth. Brown healthy bark grows. Green leaves burst out. Flowers blossom from the branches. Seeds bloom everywhere...

An explosion of life. In the

GARDEN

Izzi picks a seed. It releases from the tree like an over-ripe fruit.

She looks at it resting in her palm and offers it to someone.

Stay on her open hand for a long moment.

Then,

Tommy takes the seed.

He is alone outside of

LILLIAN'S FARMHOUSE - DAY

In a wind swept snowy field. Tommy studies the seed.

Izzi is nowhere to be found.

He looks down at the ground. There is something buried beneath a thin layer of snow.

He kneels and wipes away the snow. It is a simple grave marker.

It reads "Izzi Creo, wife, daughter, friend."

Tommy starts to cry. He digs a small hole in the frozen earth.

And plants the seed.

The tears are replaced by a sigh and a breath.

He pats down the earth.

Beat.

Tommy looks up to the heavens.

The gray sky slowly becomes the

NIGHT SKY

Crickets scream their mating calls. A thunderous noise.

Flickering in the center of the sky is Shibalba.

Gold. Just like at the start of the film.

Tommy starts to dissolve into the ether.

But he continues to stare at his destiny.

Just before he disappears Shibalba explodes.

Filling the sky with

WHITE

Beat.

As the light settles...

Tommy stands in the doorway of his and Izzi's

BEDROOM

In 2004.

Izzi asleep on the bed. Hugging a pillow. So peaceful.

A new day dawning outside.

She's so beautiful.

He creeps into bed. Spoons her from behind. He rubs his nose against the soft hairs on the back of her neck.

She moans blissfully.

The sun breaks the horizon. Tommy and Izzi flooded in a gentle morning glow.

She turns to him.

IZZI
Is everything all right?

Tommy kisses Izzi on the lips and nestles into her back.

TOMMY
Yes, everything's all right.

This time he <u>means it</u>.

The sun rising. Filling the room,

the screen,

our eyes,

with blinding white light,

For now and forever...